

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/065,357

Applicant(s)

BELFADHEL ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Terressa M. Boykin

1711

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 10-08-02.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-28.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 03 March 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: _____.
5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
(a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS must be submitted.
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. _____.
(b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
(c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet.

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- 1 ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
3 ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
5 ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. _____.
7 ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- 2 ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
4 ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____.
6 ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8 ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9 ☐ Other


TERRESSA M. BOYKIN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Allowable Subject Matter

The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Applicant(s) claimed invention is directed to an upflow reactor for producing dihydroxy compounds comprising a vessel, a catalyst bed, a reactant distribution, a distributor and a first screen disposed and a collector; a method for producing a dihydroxy compound in an upflow reactor; a method for reducing the amount of catalyst bead carryover from a bed of catalyst beads in an upflow reactor; and a method of manufacturing of a polycarbonate.

The crux of the invention lies in the discovery that the particular upflow reactor method above produces a high quality product and as well as a high yield while remaining remains cost effective and while avoiding the problems commonly associated therewith such as inefficient contact of the reactants with the catalyst, hindrance of the operation of packed-bed reactors, low product yield, premature replacement of catalyst beds and inefficient use of the reactant and cost deficiency. Such has neither been anticipated by nor made obvious from the prior art. For example, USP 6309553 discloses a phase separator, upflow reactor apparatuses and methods for separating phases. The phase separator includes a first separation unit and a second separation unit, each of which has walls defining a coagulation area. The separator also includes a plurality of parallel plates spaced from each other and vertically and horizontally inclined which each have a lower edge. Further, USP 6554994 discloses a reactor system and process for hydrotreating a heavy feedstock contaminated with metals sulfur and carbon residue using an upflow fixed bed reactor with at least two catalyst layers having different hydrogenation activity. Lastly, USP 5985135 discloses a hydro-processing

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method for removing impurities from a feed comprising a hydro carbonaceous liquid further comprising at least one concurrent, upflow hydro-processing reaction stage, a vapor-liquid contacting stage and a downflow- hydroprocessing reaction stage.

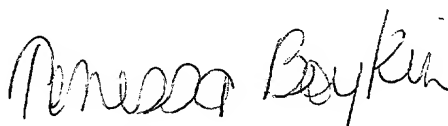
Consequently, the art of record demonstrates other upflow reactors processes in the art which do not, however, anticipate nor make obvious the particular upflow reactor for producing dihydroxy compounds as claimed by applicants invention nor does the prior art contain the advantages as mentioned or avoid the problems commonly associated with upflow reactors.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the Issue Fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Correspondence

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Examiner Terressa Boykin, via the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-2351. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00a.m.-5:30 p.m.

tmb


Examiner Terressa Boykin
Primary Examiner